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CHAPTER I

THE GEORGIAN LAND AND THE NATURE OF MOUNT CAUCASUS

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It is a fitting thing, although somewhat in the nature of a pilgrimage, to come upon Georgia from the north. From Vladikavkaz—"Ruler of the Caucasus"—you may follow by motor-bus the track which they say the Cimmerians rode with their ox-carts and their families against Urartu and Sardes. The Russians by an efficient feat of engineering have turned this track into the Georgian Military Road. It is a narrow, trough-like channel over the Caucasus, which at Daryal contracts to a deep gorge, the rock walls of the confining mountains rising sheer to thousands of feet on either side. The pass, even in summer, is cold and wet, and at the summit it had been recently cleared of snow. With the southern decline the road follows the shallow, dashing stream of the Aragvi, and the heavily wooded mountains of Khevsureti drop gradually into the rounded hills and gently sloping valleys of ancient Kartli.

The whole mellow land of Georgia lies before, with its fresh meadows and its lusty uplands, its bright vineyards and its sombre woods, its warm gracious sun and sudden-looming storms. Georgia, like some other countries, has a colour. Ireland is green and grey. Morocco is all red. Georgia is a fine yellow gold like the white wines of Burgundy. The impression of the colour is partly of the sunlight and partly of the tincture of the soil, but also there is some property in the atmosphere, intangible and not easily described, a bouquet, almost imperceptible, which envelops and caresses, fragrant and soft, insidious. The Greeks spoke of the Land of the Golden Fleece, it is supposed because of the scant alluvial gold, filtered in sheepskins from the beds of the westward-flowing streams of Caucasus, But it may be that their fancy thus imaged as a Golden Fleece that aureous hue which lies over all the country like,

● 133 as it were, to an illumined dew upon the surface of the land.

361 341 On the road to Tiflis you pass Mtzkheta, clustered on a tongue of land at the junction of the Aragvi with the Kura. The decrepit balconies of the little tumbling houses are placed on piles above the river and they seem to scramble for a foothold. Forlornly above the village roofs, rise the rugged proportions of the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Georgian kings. Within are marvellous frescoes, chipped and fading badly; but you may still discern—more intriguing than the formal postures of long-forgotten Georgian kings and queens—a curious map of Georgia, of some centuries old, which displays in varied colours the mountains of Caucasus with strange beasts thereon, the rivers Rioni and Kura with cities set about, castles and gigantic trees, and riding in the Euxine two galleys surrounded by monsters of the deep. A coffer of blue stone in the nave of the Cathedral once held the seamless shirt of Christ. The custodian of this royal neglected shrine was a young brown-bearded monk of Khevsureti, with the sallow skin and meek lustreless blue eyes of an undernourished fanatic; and he listlessly lamented the oblivion of God. But for this monk the place was all deserted, and in the courtyard, some drunken picnickers, lolling in the untidy grass, conveyed a piquantly Hogarthian touch. While the sun was sinking I could yet descry upon a neighbouring mountain the ruins of a temple where they say that Armazi was worshipped with fire and human flesh. By the gates a charabanc was waiting for our picnickers, and across the squalid street were festooned scarlet streamers, with the likeness of Karl Marx in black and white, and the hackneyed message calling upon the Proletariat of All Countries to Unite.

ooo Two thousand years of history flickered in the evening light.

And thinking on this scene, and on that Georgian land, and on the passing there of history, I now recall to mind the saying of that learned Moor, of ibn-Khaldun the Tunisian in his Muqaddima or Prolegomena. "Know thou", said he,

> "that the true purpose of history is to make us acquainted with human society, that is with the civilization of the world, and with its natural phenomena, such as savage life, the softening of manners, attachment to the family and the tribe, the various kinds of superiority which one people gains over another, the kingdoms and diverse dynasties which arise in this way, the different trades and laborious occupations to which men devote themselves in order to earn their livelihood, the

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the pellucid sunlight, early grew to prying intellect; lands of vivid life, of doings and undoings, of risings up and fallings down, of splendours and of shambles, of wisdom and of scattering.

Consider then the mountains of the Caucasus, "the father of the rivers of the East", stretching from sea to sea, from the Black Sea to the Caspian, over six hundred miles.

To the west, three days going now by steamer, to Constantinople and the straits into the Middle Sea; in the older days by sail, maybe from seven to a score of days to Byzantium and earlier to Troy.

To the east, across the Caspian, one day by steamer, two along the railways, to Bukhara and Samarkand; not so far even in the days when Chinghiz ruled at Karakorum, and the unquiet traveller went by sailing-boat and camel-back.

To the south-east by the valley of the Araks, to Tabriz-Tauris of the voyagers—and into the Iranian world.

To the south-west up the valley of the Kura, by Kars, an ancient site of settlement, and the Euphrates valley, to Syria and Egypt, and all the south and west.

So understand the Caucasus, a distant corner of the ancient world, but yet a true part of it, known to the old writers, familiar ground to them. It was the barrier of the ancient world, the end of known lands, the farthest part where travellers went. Here was "Phasis, where ships end their course". Beyond was the land of the Hyperboreans, the Gog and Magog of the Semites.

The mountains stretch north-west to south-east, a dim blue line, capped and flaked with the whiteness of the perpetual snow.

From their middle they throw out, as it were, a lower rib, which curves south-westward, until it is merged into the long high range of the Pontic Alps which bank the southern coast of the Black Sea. This rib is called the Surami (from the high pass which leads over from the western to the eastern plains which lie under Caucasus) or by the Georgians the Mountains of Likhi.

From the region of the Pontic Alps to the east and south are piled the ranges of the peripheral rim of the Armenian plateau. Behind them is the highland country of Armenia—great ranges running west to east and then curving to the north and south. They shelter long extensive river valleys and spread their flanks around wide upland basins—the beds of old lakes. Such is the country where the Kura takes its

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source; and, eastward, the basins of Kars and Sevan, southward, Urumia and Van. 133

Between these two mountain masses—the Caucasus and the Ponto-Armenian highlands—lie the two valleys of the Trans-Caucasian Trough; the western crescent-shaped in the elbow of the Black Sea; the eastern sleeve-shaped, draining to the Caspian. The Mountains of Likhi separate the two valleys, and form as it were the spine of the country, so that the Georgians, looking from the mountains, call the western plain Imier, "*that side*" and the eastern plain Amier, "*this side*".

Imier—"that side", the western plain, slopes down to the sea, a fat body nourished by great veins—the Rioni splashing down from the Caucasus, pursued by many tributaries; Tskhenis-tsqali, "*horse's water*", and Qwirila, "*the bawler*".

The long thin tips of the crescent stretch luxuriantly along the coast, north-westwards under Caucasus, south-westward beneath the Pontic bluffs. A multitude of over-generous streams run down to sog the narrow foreshore of this crescent-tip toward the north; the largest are the Kodori and Enguri. The shorter southern tip under the Pontic Alps receives the sluggish waters of many little marshy streams, until, over the pass between the Kertsen Dagh and the great mass of Karchkhali, the Pontic Alps let through the roaring Chorokhi, bearing the pent waters of a dozen mountain rivers fast towards the sea.

Surrounded by mountains, bordering on an inland sea, Imier—"that side"—is a well-favoured land.

"This country", says Wakhushti, "is very wooded and its open places, except for the cultivated ground, are of small extent. In some places the grape and other fruits grow in the woods; the air is excellent—and mild; except outside the woods it is very hot in summer because the wind scarcely blows—but it is bearable except in certain places. In winter it is warm, and for this reason the running waters and the muddy places do not freeze enough for beasts and men to pass over. The snow, nevertheless, is great in height, sometimes an elbow, and worse.

"Except in certain places, the woods hinder a man from seeing the beauty of the country, and, indeed, seen from the height of a mountain—Imereti seems like a vast forest without any kind of habitation.

"All plants and grains grow there in abundance; cotton and rice only are rarely sown, as also corn and barley, but maize, on which the people mostly feed, is found there in abundance. Other grains prosper there; a single man, possessing a coulter or hoe, can grow enough to support himself and his family and pay the tax. There are no orchards but many fruit trees bordering the vineyards, for everything grows in the woods. You find the date-palm, the apple, the chestnut and the 241

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241 peach here more than in any other part; again all kitchen plants and melons of great size grow without cultivation. There are no gardens of flowers, but you find in the plains and in the woods quantities of lilies and of sweet-smelling roses. Mushrooms abound, and there is above all, one sort having a kind of white envelope which later bursts —it is an orange mushroom, and very tasty.

136 "All animals are found in this country with the exception of the camel, but not in such quantities as in other parts of Georgia; sheep, with and without the fat tail, and always with two and sometimes three or four lambs; they are not kept in flocks. . . . Wild animals abound, excepting the chamois and the hyena. . . . Bees are very profitable through their honey and their wax which is in abundance; the honey is very good, very white in some parts and as hard as sugar; this sort is called 'kripuji'. There are many reptiles and serpents which are not dangerous."[1]

● 133 Amier—"this side"—over the mountains of Likhi, is a land of different character. Long and narrow in its shape, not wide and fat, like Imier. To the north the ice-clad mountains of the Caucasus, to the south the formidable plateau of Armenia; to the west the rim of Likhi; and up this valley as up a corridor, the east wind blows from the Himalaya over the Central Asian steppe, and across the Caspian, dry and searing in the summer, loaded with hail and snow through the long winter. So that while men gather oranges "on that side" by the soft sea in the early spring, on "this side" they go with long poles[2] through the snow against the blizzard.

A great river flows through the land, the Cyrus or Kura which comes from the Georgian name *Mtkvari*—a name which the wise derive from the words for "river" of two different tribal stocks; from *mdinaré* = "flowing" or "river" of the Kartlians, and *a-kuara* = "the river" of the Abkhazians; thus bilingually *Mdinaré-a-kuara*—the river-river—"the flowing", the dominating stream, "the flux" in the life of the primitive tribes who gave the name.

The Mtkvari rises in the lake country south of Ardahani.

[134] "This country is entirely covered by rocks, comparatively high mountains, rough places and forests; it produces reeds and lilies; it contains rivers, springs and lakes, but few plains; cold in winter in certain parts, and with abundant snow. . . . The country produces all kinds of grains, but not everywhere . . . the fruits . . . are good and abounding . . . most of the flowers grow wild in the woods and on the mountains, and in certain localities the scent of the lilies pervades both the mountains and the plains . . .. the rivers are many and

[1] *Description géographique de la Géorgie par le Tsarévitch Wakhoucht.* Georgian text with French introduction and interleaved translation by M. F. Brosset, Spb. 1842, pp. 329–43 (reference, Wakhoucht).

[2] Cf. Strabo, XI, xiv, 4.

great, and of rapid current; the springs are beautiful, delicious and health-giving; the lakes are good and full of fish."[1] 133

In these parts the Mtkvari takes its strength; then flows at first from south to north

"now with a strong current . . . through a rocky ravine full of stones"

until below Ardahani its course becomes

"peaceable—and sinuous, because of the plains. It is full of fish—trout above all, big and little, abound up towards the mountains. The water is here better to drink than lower down."[2]

By Akhaltzikhé, the Mtkvari turns west to east, cutting a long gorge through the mountains, overhung on its left bank by the peaks of Likhi and bound on its right by the lesser ranges of Trialeti. The highest peak of Likhi, Makhvilo, "*the Pointed One*", overlooks from some distance this gorge now called Borjomi, this one pass into the valley of Amier.

Through the mountains, the Mtkvari curves eastward and south-eastward, going easily, in leisurely way across its long plain between the Caucasus and the Armenian Mountains. It spreads itself in places now to eighty yards and more across, and forms shallows where it pours past rapidly enough; here again it flows more slowly in a deeper bed.

"In some places steep rocks are found along its bank, but for the most part there are to be seen forests, grassy tracts and reed patches all abounding in wild-fowl and game. The most savoury fishes are caught by nets and other means. . . . Sometimes they fish sturgeon, which spawn below the region of Ganja, but which cannot go higher up because of the current."[3] [136]

Rafts only can make the upper course, bringing the timber of the mountains down to the open plains; but lower, 150 miles before the Caspian, large sailing-boats may ply, drawing up to three feet of water. Low down, 100 miles from the Caspian, the Araks, great river of the Armenians, coming out of the high mountain, Dévé Boyun, the Camel's Back, just east of Erzerum (and the Camel's Back forms also the water-shed of the western Euphrates) flows in to join the Mtkvari, and the united waters find a double mouth along the sandy foreshore of the Caspian.

Thus the Mtkvari—"the flowing"—the "river" bears down the thawed snows of the lake-country, cuts through the mountains and turns into the long plain to take the streams

[1] Wakhushti, pp. 76–9. [2] *Ibid.*, pp. 80–1. [3] *Ibid.*, pp. 135–7.

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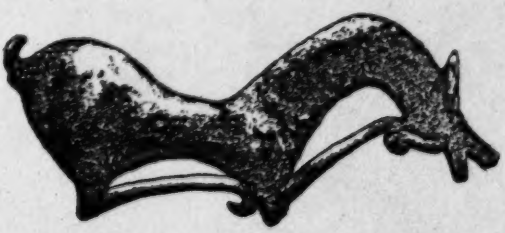
138 that come down from the Caucasus—the Liakhvi, the Ksani and the Aragvi, and lower in a great fork the two considerable rivers which run parallel with the Mtkvari, the Yori, remarkable for the number of pheasants that abound there, and the Alazani, the loveliest valley of the Caucasus.

131 This is the Caucasian land—between the walls of mountains, a ditch that opens either end on seas—a corridor from the west into the innermost parts of Asia, approachable with no great difficulty from either sea.

And from north to south over the mountains from the northern steppe, there is access through that narrow gorge of Daryal—*Dar-i-Alan*—" the gate of the Alans "; also by the changeful foreshore of the Caspian, along a narrow strip of sandy way under the eastern flanks of Caucasus—*Zghvis-Kari*, " the Sea-Gate " of the Georgians. By this way, mostly, the mounted nomads, Scythians, Alans, Huns, Khazars, were wont to ride through upon the civil countries; and so the vital point upon it where the mountains come down nearest to the sea was called by the Persians Derbend, and by the Arabs *Bab-al-Abwab*, " The Gate of Gates ", and to this day, the Muslims, recalling the Arab terror of the Khazar raids, still call the Caspian, a sea as shifting as the nomads, and washing to their steppe-land parts, *Bahr-ul-Khazar*—" The Khazar Sea ".

From the south and east access was easy, across the Araks fords and up the open valley of the Mtkvari. From the west, unless by sea, more difficult; for an invader must go through the mountains up the feeders of the Araks to the sources of the Mtkvari, and penetrate the long Borjomi defile, or follow down the rocky valleys of the Trialetian and Somkhetian mountains, that fall to the Mtkvari from the west.



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194 feeding the Mtkvari was the country marching to the Armenians—Somkheti or the land of the Armenochalybes—" the Moschic territory " of Strabo—a borderland of mongrel stocks. The memory of the Swarming Time had dwindled to the vague legends of the hero-gods of tribes which were themselves merging their group-identities into the kingdoms of the Caucasus. Nevertheless the memory of the Mingling Time remained and with it the tradition of the common origin of the sons of Targamos, and some notion of the prevalence and decline of Aryan blood and speech which had flowed in on the troubled currents of the swarming.[1]

● 133 The ethnography of the main chain of the Caucasus is less clear. The western mountains were not well known to the ancient geographers; of the eastern mountains between the Daryal and the Caspian they only give us fabulous tales.

The western mountains of the Caucasus run in a south-easterly direction from the neighbourhood of the stagnant Sea of Azov—the Palus Mæotis of the Greeks—and they constitute the forearm of the easterly elbow of the Black Sea. They are precipitous forest-clad mountains which overhang the sea, and until the Russians built a coastal road at the beginning of the present century, there was no way past by land; all passage was made in the long flat-bottomed boats of the people of the country. Innumerable torrents find their way down from the short narrow valleys between the mountains into the sea, and in this way the coast is divided into mountain bluffs, which are cut off, each from the other, by these fast and furious unnavigable streams. Many of the streams make, at their mouths, among the woods, wide marshy tracks of ground. After Pitsunda point, the mountains turn inland, leaving a widening stretch of flat alluvial country. As the mountains turn inward and eastward, and the lowland strip widens to the Colchian plain, the rivers grow in length and size. All this country is favoured by the protection of the mountains; it is warm in winter, nor, unlike the Colchian plain, is it here too hot in summer. The moisture of the sea nourishes a rich vegetation. The orange, lemon, peach, pear, apple and grape flourish here, and the country has always been particularly noted for the growth of its cherries, chestnuts and plums.

Inland and eastward, the mountains are the most formid-

[1] Cf. the tradition embodied in the early apocryphal Annals. Brosset, *Histoire de la Géorgie*, 1ère Part, p. 31 and notes 3 and 4; cf. also p. 32, note 3.

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able of all the parts of Caucasus. From the Black Sea coast to the Daryal Gorge there is no pass under nine thousand feet and here Elbruz, Adai Khokh and Kazbek raise their splendid heads. Under Elbruz and Shkara is a high alpine region. The streams run down from here into the middle course of the river Rioni, the greatest of the westward-flowing waters of south Caucasus. The land is poor and snowbound, craggy and periculous. From the Colchian plain there is access only during the months of July and August, when with difficulty the traveller can ascend the valley of the Rioni, and, crossing to the upper valley of the Tskhenis-tsqali, enter this bleak land of untutored hunters and shepherds of mean flocks. 133

The northern slopes of Caucasus are easier than the southern. In the west the grassy uplands are watered by many streams of a middle size, running down to join the great Kuban which finds its mouth round about the Taman peninsula—dividing spit between the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. Over all this back-side country, the upper valleys, of their nature, are sparse in the raw mountain atmosphere. Here the rare orochs —the European bison—survived until the beginning of the present century in one or two thin herds. The lower valleys and all the line of the Kuban are rich grainlands. This country, which suffered much during the centuries of horse-riding nomad power, was, in the Classic period, well inhabited by people trading with the Greeks—Scythian tribes who rose to passing kingdoms; and in the Bronze Age, before the time of written history, a great culture flourished here. Over the watershed of the western Caucasus, from the uplands of the Kuban to the steep forest-coast of the Black Sea, passage was rare and difficult; the best by the now-called Klukhor Pass, by the high tarn Teberdá.

Here to the north and west of the open Colchian plain, lay this great mountain country, closed to newcomers by cliffs and precipices and snow, by forests and the sea; a good haven for remnants in flight from the coursing of the fairer lands, and where, once set, they might hold their peace against the conquerors of the open south; and scrape a meagre life, fall to a great obscurity among the nations, and cause some idle men to wonder on their ancient coming. And so there are in all this country tribes of some affinity with the people living in the southward open country, yet of a forgotten history, and with obscurely differing idioms. Of these tribes the Svans—Georgian *Svanni*—who inhabit the alpine country 174

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puny lives, and supernatural certainties before us, our aching for finality. And our history is so wonderful; a brave riding through the mists, a fine shouting in the sun, a weeping in the darkness, a snarling over meats—a flukish combination of electrical atoms or a War of Good and Evil, the fulfilment of the soul.

Discerning, then, the limitations of this conception of "geographical influence" in relation to the history of man, we consider the influence of geographical conditions on the development of history in the Caucasus. The Mountains of Likhi, which divide the Transcaucasian Trough into two separate basins, have had their blind effect upon the life of man in the lands to the south of the Caucasus. Imier, "that side," facing to the open sea, has lain open to the Mediterranean world; Amier, "this side," draining to the shut Asiatic Sea, the Caspian, has always been a continental region, a shelf of the Iranian world. The folk living in these two basins, on "that side" and on "this side", have used the wall of the mountains as a bridge, and since they have for so long been one nation, speaking if not one tongue, at least in tongues intelligible to each other, of the two lands they have made one country. There have always been differences in the culture, as in the political history of "that side" and "this side". In the Roman days, Colchis, the western country, was more civil. Iberia, over the mountains of Likhi, was more rusticated. Strabo notes a harder, rougher way of life, as he goes eastward, from the busy ports of Colchis over the mountains into the agricultural plain of Iberia, and further towards the Caspian into the parts of the half-nomadic Albanians.

Colchis was, then, in the first centuries A.D. the most civil part of the Caucasus; a part, in fact, of the Græco-Roman civilization which was spread round the shores of the Black Sea from the mouths of the Danube to the Caucasian Mountains. The country was, indeed, for some decades during the first century A.D. included in the Bosporan kingdom of the Roman clients, Polemon and Pythodoris. Iberia remained the rougher land over the mountains, the up-country parts; its kings, cadets of the Persian royal houses and veering in their politics between the Roman Emperors and the Court of Ctesiphon; their capital was rather ruder, more remote than those of the Armenian kings in the cities on the Araks; their weight in politics much less significant.

When Strabo knew it, Colchis, the civil part, the country

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Valley of the Tskhenis-tsqali near the fort of Larushi in Dadianis-Svaneti
(From a photograph published in *Materiali po Arkheologii Kavkaza*, Vol. X)

[facing page 50]

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361 166 months; and of the Kurds all over the upland country from Van to Ardahani. Such also is the habit of the Georgian-speaking Ajars, who in the summer move up from the hot valleys to the alpine meadows of Karchkhali and Shavsheti;[1] and of the people of the right bank of the Mtkvari in its upper course, and of its smaller tributaries, which fall north from the Trialetian mountains into the middle valley. And the people of the valleys of the Ktzia-Khrami and Berduji move their herds in summer to the highland lakes, to Panavari—"the lake of butterflies", and to Saghamo—"the evening lake", called Tuman Göl, "the mist lake", by the Turks.[2]

This half-migratory habit of the people of the upland country can explain the lack of topographical detail of the early Greek geographers, and their exaggerated ideas of the barbarous character of the inhabitants thereabouts.[3]

● 133 172 The westward limits of the Georgian-speaking country, and the limit also of that country which is regarded as Georgian by the authors of the Georgian Annals, is indicated roughly by the line of the great trunk-road from Trebizond to Erzerum. The southern limit of the Georgian country on this side were the mountains overhanging the valley of the Araks from the north. This country is in the shape of a foreshortened arm, extending westward from the twin-body of the Rioni-Mtkvari basin. The long narrow valley of the Chorokhi, running west to east, divides the mountain country into two. The mountains to the north of the Chorokhi are the country of the Lazes or Chans (La-zan), Chaneti of the Georgian Annals.[4] The Laz communes cling to the narrow foreshore of the sea, and are scattered along the sides of the short narrow valleys falling steeply from the high mountains. Their settlements are communes rather than villages, as in the Ajar country,

[1] See *Zap. Kav. Ot. I.R.G.O.*, X, Part I, D. Kazbegi, *Tri mesyatz v' Turetskoi Gruzii*, for an account of the nomadizing of the Ajars.

[2] Wakhushti remarks curiously about Lake Parnavari to this effect, about the summer migration of the kine: "Lake Parnavari is very large and full of fish which are not very savoury. Since in summer, great numbers of sheep, of horses, of cattle and beasts from Kartli and Kakheti are stationed round about, and since their excrement is washed down to the lake by the melting of the snows, they say that this is the cause of the bad taste of the fish."—Wakhushti, *D.G.*, p. 163.

[3] Procopius, in the sixth century A.D., says: "The mountains of the Meskhoi are not rough or unproductive of crops, but they abound in all good things, since the Meskhoi, for their part, are skilful farmers, and there are actually vineyards in their country. However, this land is hemmed in by mountains which are very lofty and covered by forests, so that they are exceedingly difficult to pass through."—*History of the Wars*, VIII, ii., 25, 26.

[4] The name Lazistan is Turkish. The Greeks called the country Lazica, including under this form also Mingrelia. La- is a Svanian territorial prefix, and the Svanians call Mingrelia, as well as Lazistan—Lazan—the land of the *Zan*←→*Chan*←→*San*←→*Svan* (cf. Procopius, I, xv, 21, who speaks of the Tzani or Sani).

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in Abkhazeti and Cherkezeti—in fact, as it is all along the mountain parts of the eastern co[illegible] of the Black Sea. The houses in these communes are wooden chalets—one-floor shanties standing above the ground on piles and scattered at a fair distance from each other, and each among its own grove of trees. Dubois has explained how the Abkhaz and the Circassian sought always a solitary emplacement for his dwelling, and chose his situation near a wood into which, at any sign of danger, his family might flee. The way of life of the Laz is similar, as Strabo exemplified in his account of the Mossynoeci, "*who attack travellers, leaping down from the floors of their dwellings among the trees*".[1] The Lazes were always clever wood-workers and boat-builders,[2] lumbermen, fishermen[3] and pirates; their mountains were impassable, and their allegiance went to the master of the sea-coast between Trebizond and Phasis, in the degree to which repression could be brought to bear upon their coastal communes.[4]

Along the coast of the Channi or Laz, where the fertile river valleys come down to the sea between the mountain bluffs covered with rhododendron and azalea, there have been from remote antiquity sites which were at once roadsteads and beach-markets rather than towns. The classic writers call these places Greek foundations, but the names are Laz; and it would seem that the Greeks in developing their Euxine trade, settled here, along the Lazian coast on older native sites, as Rostovtseff has shown they did in Colchis and round the north-east shore of the Euxine to the Cimmerian Bosporus. The place-names of the greater classic ports along the southern littoral of the Euxine are not indeed of Greek origin; they are rather Greek mouthings of older native names, which later received a definitely Hellenic form, and had attached to them some legendary explanation of the word. In the time of Xenophon the Greek population of the Pontine littoral was more sparsely scattered than in later times when Strabo, Pliny and Ptolemy wrote of it. From Samsun, eastward by Sinope and Kerasund, Greek influence thinned to its ultimate bulkhead at Trebizond. Immediately east of Trebizond there were Greek depots established at Susurmena (Surmena) and

[1] Strabo, XII, iii., 18.
[2] Xenophon, *Anabasis*, V, iv, 11; Wakhushti, pp. 110–11.
[3] Strabo, *ibid.*
[4] The Lazes were as dangerous to the troops of the Byzantine emperors and the Georgian kings as they were to the cohorts of Pompey (cf. Strabo, *ibid.*). The Turkish Government by savage measures suppressed, during the forties of the last century, the virtual independence which they had always enjoyed. (See Kazbegi, *Tri mesyatsa v' Turetskoi Gruzii*, for an account of this campaign.)

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172 Rhizæum (Riza), but they were only trading centres and the people of the district were actually of Laz stock. Even in Trebizond in the Middle Ages, the Laz element in the population appears to have been numerous and powerful. Abu'l-Fida, who says that "Trebizond is a celebrated port", quotes ibn-Said as authority that "the greater part of its inhabitants are Lazgis".[1] And the feud between the "town-party" and the "country-party" which vitiated the politics of the Comnenian "empire" appears to have been a continuing contrariety between Greek and Laz.[2]

During all the classic period down to the Middle Ages, there was a flourishing trade driven along the Lazic coast. Eastward from Susurmena and Rhizæum were Athenæ, Archabis and Apsarus, in the land of "the Romans who are called Pontic".[3] Speaking of these places Procopius mentions that the Tzani (Laz) who had been fighting the Byzantine army at Petra, after passing through Rhizæum and Athenæ, "betook themselves to their homes through the territory of the Trapezuntines". Athenæ is Atina of the Laz, Archabis is Arkhave, and Apsarus appears to be Khopa.[4] Most of the names of the Greek settlements between Trebizond and the mouth of the Chorokhi may be derived from the Laz tongue: Riza is Erizeni, "the place where people (or soldiers) meet": Atina is "the place where there is shade"; Mapavri means "leafy".

133 The valley of the Chorokhi in its upper and middle course
367 has always been thinly populated, for it is a lean and narrow
172 part, hedged by bleak mountains and nourished by this fast and shallow river. The Georgians call this region Klarjeti. Only where the main trade routes run over it from the sea to the Araks valley have the settled sites risen to some small importance. Such is Baiburt on the road from Trebizond to Erzerum, and Ispir farther down the Chorokhi, which lies on the shorter but more perilous way over the mountains from Riza on the sea, to Erzerum. Baiburt has been identified doubtfully with the Gymnias, a town described by Xenophon;[5] it cannot well be a town of lesser age than Trebizond. Ispir may be the Saparda of the Cuneiform inscriptions,[6] and

[1] Abu'l-Fida, II, ii, 146.

[2] See my paper "The March-Lands of Georgia" in *J.R.G.S.*, July, 1929. Cf. also William Miller, *Trebizond: The Last Greek Empire*, in which a family bearing the clearly Laz patronymic of Tsanichites is frequently mentioned as playing an active part in Trapezuntine politics.

[3] Procopius, II, xxx, 14.

[4] Dewing in his excellent text and translation of Procopius from which I quote, identifies Apsarus, I think, incorrectly with Makriali (Makryalos).

[5] Xenophon's *Anabasis* (Hamilton's ed.), p. 326.

[6] St. Martin, *Pap. prim. du Caucase*, p. 44.

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its district is the Hysperitis of Strabo. From the south many small streams fall into the Chorokhi; chief are the Tortomis-tsqali and the river of Olti. Here is the Georgian borderland, and the high pass which leads up from Erzerum to Tortomi is called in Georgian *Kartlis-Qeli*, in Turkish *Gurgi-Bughaz*—"the Georgian throat". The Georgians call this region Tao; the Armenians, Daikh. Here Xenophon's troops found themselves *"in the country of the Taokhoi, where provisions began to fail them; for the Taokhoi inhabited strong fortresses in which they had laid up all their supplies"*.[1] It was in these parts towards the end of the sixth century that the family of Bagrationi, shrewd marcher-lords—playing their prospects between the kings of Armenia and Iberia, the Byzantines and the Persians—began to build the power which was to bring them later to the Armenian and Georgian thrones.

The Chorokhi, twenty-five miles above its mouth, turns north-east to the sea. At this point it receives the turbulent stream of Imer-Khevi, coming out of the mountains of Shavsheti, and a little before it has been joined by the smaller "river of Ardanuchi". The traveller might ascend the Chorokhi along its high banks to the neighbourhood of Artvini, and then ride up the precipitous valley of Ardanuchi, past the town of that name, and by Ardahani and its river to Akhaltzikhe and the Mtkvari highway into Georgia; alternately from Ardahani south to Kars and the valley of the Araks. This way by Artvini and Ardahani was only less important than the more familiar route by Trebizond and Erzerum. From the Georgian Annals the antique user of it is apparent; and if the identity of Ardahani (old Georgian Artaani) with Irdaniunis of the Urartian inscriptions be accepted, it would seem that the Khaldians and the sea-traders who had business with them, went by these mountains in the remotest times. Such, indeed, seems beyond dispute; for all the lower valley of the Chorokhi and of the Oltis-tsqali is rich in copper and lead. There are iron deposits on the left bank of the Chorokhi and gold is found near Artvini.[2] The narrow valley-ways are fertile too, and the most delicious grapes in all the Caucasus come from the little district of Ligani, between Artvini and the sea. The earlier geographers are vague about this stretch of country. Ptolemy refers to Artanisa;[3] the Georgian Annals indicate

[1] Xenophon's *Anabasis*, IV, hxi.

[2] See *Carte Economique de la Giorgie* (Labrot, Paris), also Ghambashidze, *Mineral Resources of Trans-Caucasia*.

[3] Ptolemy, V, 10.

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Ardanuchi

(From a photograph by Marr published in *Tehuti i Rasishumiya*, Vol. VII)

[face page 58]

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the considerable antiquity of Ardahani and Artvini. Tukharisi, whose ruins Wakhushti locates near Artvini,[1] was one of the towns which by tradition, Alexander found in Georgia. During the fifth century and onwards, the Iberian kings looked with favour on this region; they began to build castles, monasteries and churches in abundance. In the seventh century, when the Muslims were in occupation of all eastern Georgia, the lower Chorokhi became the refuge and the centre of Georgian life. The monasteries of Khandzti and Opisi, near Artvini, were built during the ninth century; the fine church of Tbeti in Shavsheti and Kakhuli, near Tortomi, a few years later. The rising Georgian dynasts, the Bagrationi, Kuropalatês of Tao and Basiani, established their seat at Ardanuchi, and in the ninth century Constantine Porphyrogenitus could write that

> "The citadel of Ardanutzion is very strong, and has ramparts suitable to the capital of a district; it is the centre of all the business of Trebizond, of Iberia, of Abkhazia, of all Armenia and Syria, and it does an immense commerce with all these countries. The country or 'arzen' of Ardanutzion is large and fertile; it is the key to Iberia, Abkhazia and Meskhia."[2]

In the beginning we were quoting Wakhushti's account of the fine country where the Mtkvari takes its source. By this way we have said went the roads from the Chorokhi country into Georgia, and to the Armenian lands along the Araks. It was in the early classical days, a borderland, the "Moschic territory" of Strabo, divided between the Colchians, the Iberians and the Armenians. The Georgians called this country Zemo-Kartli, "Upper Georgia", or Samtzkhé, "the Meskhian land"; the Armenians called it Kukar; in the classical writers it is Gogarene.[3] Upper Kartli remained, until the consolidation of the Georgian monarchy in the eleventh century, a wild borderland filled with the din and skirmish of Armenian and Georgian forays. The villages were most of them troglodytic; the names of places mark only strongholds on the hills: such were the three famous fortresses of Lomsia,[4] "the lion"; Odzrakhé[5] and Juaristzikhé[6] guarding the way into Georgia by the Mtkvari defile

[1] Wakhushti, p. 113.
[2] Brosset, quoting *C. P., H. de la G., Add. et Eclair.*, p. 149.
[3] Cf. St. Martin., *Mém. sur l'Arménie*, 1, 81 *et seq.*
[4] "Lomsia", Wakhushti, p. 85, mentioned in the first century A.D.
[5] "Odzrakhé", Wakhushti, p. 87. The Annals attribute its foundation to the period of the Georgian patriarchs.
[6] Juaris-tzikhé ("the castle of the cross"), Wakhushti, p. 85.

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133 and the high passes of the Likhi. Khertvisi, at the junction
172 of the river of Akhalkalaki with the Mtkvari, guarded the way up from Kars; Tsunda, an ancient hold, held the way by the small lakes over the Trialetian mountains. The very names of the large settled sites in Upper Kartli—Akhaltzikhé (the new castle) and Akhalkalaki (the new town)—indicate that the foundation of them was comparatively late. Akhaltzikhé town it seems rose round the site of Lomsia[1]; Akhalkalaki became a walled town in the eleventh century, but the foundation of a town upon the site is attributed in the Annals to the first King Farnavazi, and the name of the hill of Amiran above the town serves to confirm the tradition of the building by the Magian king.

133 Along the right bank of the Mtkvari lies a stretch of mountain country shaped like a mutton leg. The north-eastern part called Trialeti faces the mountains of Likhi; the curve south-westward is called Somkheti. North-eastwards the mountains decline to the wide plains of the middle reaches of the Mtkvari in which Tiflis lies; southward they face to the lake country, round the sources of the Mtkvari. These mountains are in fact a section of the peripheral rim of the Armenian plateau, linking the mountains of Likhi with the range of Shah Dagh which overhangs the lake basin of Sevan. From these mountains of Trialeti and Somkheti, a number of rivers of middle size flow eastward into the plain of the Mtkvari. The principal are the Algeti, the Ktzia, lower down called Khrami, and the Débéda (or Borchalo). The course of the last is rather north-north-east than east and it joins its waters with the Khrami a few miles before the two fall into the Mtkvari. All this country is rough and rather bare; the rivers fast and shallow, and falling to the valley of the Débéda is the hottest patch in all Georgia. Trialeti and Somkheti formed always an extension of the borderland between Armenia and Georgia. The shortest way to Tiflis, up from the Araks and the Arpa Chai lay along the Débéda, and by this way, by contrary, the Georgians might strike quickest at Kars and Ani, and the cities on the Araks. And so Trialeti and Somkheti became a land of strongholds and marcher-lords, ready to change allegiance, and they at the same time made their houses rich from the copper-mines and lead-mines, the gold[2] and porphyry and lapis-lazuli[3] of the valley of the Débéda. Here

[1] Wakhushti, p. 85: "I think that this is Lomsia, because from the time that the name of Akhaltzikhe is met with in history, Lomsia does not appear."
[2] Cf. Dubois, IV, 133-4, and 141 *et seq.* [3] Wakhushti, p. 145.

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133 there rose up in the first days of the Iberian patriarch kings Mtkvaris-tzikhé or Khunani [1] at the confluence of the Débéda with the Mtkvari; Gachiani and Arkvani [2] below the great ravine of the Khrami; and, higher up the river, Orbeti or Samshwildé,[3] the patrimony of the celebrated family of Orbeliani.

172 [161] It was only along the middle valley of the Mtkvari from Tashis-kari,[4] "the rock-gate", along to the confluence of the Aragvi, that Iberia equalled the Rioni basin in density of population. In contrast to the sparsely peopled mountains all around, the wide stretch of the middle Mtkvari teemed with towns and villages. Here were the oldest towns of the eastern country. Zanavi, near Tashis-kari, "where the Jews lived", caught the caravans as they emerged from the mountains. Lower down the river was Urbnisi, or *Uriat Ubani*, "the Jew's town", where St. Nino, the Evangelist, found welcome owing to her familiarity with Hebrew.[5] Farther east, below the junction of the Liakhvi with the Mtkvari was Uplistzikhé which we have described; and below the point where the small river of Rekhula falls into the Mtkvari, was the old site of Kaspi, a great town once where now only an inconsidered village bears the pregnant name. At the place where the Aragvi joins the Mtkvari was the city of Mtzkheta, and on the southern bank of the Mtkvari, in the loop of the river within a triangle formed by the small stream of Kartlis-khevi was the city of Kartli or Armazi. These two places were the most important sites in ancient Iberia. The Georgian Annalists and Wakhushti—writing in the eighteenth century—were aware of this ancient fame, but, as in the case of Caspi and Nakalakevi, no substantial attempt has ever been made to explore them by excavation and to arrive at an appreciation of the extent to which civilized life was developed there. The name of the three sites—Caspi, Kartli and Mtzkheta—imply their foundation by the tribes who settled in Georgia after the

[1] Wakhushti, p. 169.
[2] *Idem*, p. 145.
[3] *Idem*, p. 167; cf. also *Sbor. Mat.*, XIII, i, pp. 3–13, S. Majnikov, *Pamyatniki drevnosti goroda Samshvilde*.
[4] The name is a Turko-Georgian combination. It is applied in the Annals to the head or the whole of the Mtkvari defile, now generally called "the defile of Borjomi" after the town of that name. Cf. Brosset, *H. de la G.*, II, 22 and note.
[5] See Brosset, *V.A.*, 6e Rapp., p. 19. The Georgian Annals record a curious tradition as to the settlement of the Jews in Georgia; that after the taking of Jerusalem by Vespasian, Jewish fugitives came from there to Mtzkheta and established themselves with their compatriots who had settled there formerly. Among the fugitives was the son of Barabbas. For an account of Urbnissi, Uplistzikhe and of Gori—a town whose foundation dates only from the eleventh century—see *Sbor. Mat.* I, Part I, pp. 59–108; Javakhishvili, *Gorod Gori*; also XXXIV, i, pp. 163–200, M. G. Janashvili, *Gori i ego okrestnosti*.

172 centre of the flourishing trade which grew up under the realist government of the Arabs.

● 133 In the uplands of the middle Caucasus, eastward of the Daryal gorge, two rivers find their sources—the Yori and the Alazani. They run with the same direction as the Aragvi, and when the latter falls to the Mtkvari, these partner rivers take still the same direction, running parallel with the greater stream, until after a course of some two hundred and fifty miles, the two of them curl round to join the Mtkvari, first the Yori and then the Alazani entering it at points about two miles apart. The country of these two tributaries form two long sleeve-like valleys, converging gradually to the south-east. The upper part where the rivers take their source is high alpine country, the immemorial settlement of crude clans of Georgian mountaineers—the Khevsurs, who border on the Ossetians, the Pshavs and Tushes, who beyond the watershed have for neighbours to the north the Chechens, a forest-folk, and to eastward the highland-tribes of Daghestan. These Georgian clans from antique times were subject to the Georgian kings, who, in the first centuries of the Iberian kingdom, were making expeditions against the Phkhoels or Pshavs.

Lower, where the Aragvi, the Yori and the Alazani run through wide and gently sloping valleys, flanked by wooded bluffs, is the old settled land of Kakheti, rectangular between high Caucasus, the bleak escarpment of Daghestan and the Mtkvari—broad about one hundred miles and long close on two hundred. It is a fertile land, but wilder than Imereti and Kartli. It is mostly wooded and, above all, oaks abound. Pigs are more plentiful than in any part of the Caucasus; sheep and buffaloes particularly grow strong and plentiful.

157 The people, as in all the serried valleys of the Caucasus, have their own character—and differ somewhat from the other Georgians. Strong they are and lithe, their limbs well hung, with daring eyes, alert, keen, animal. Proud they are and arrogant, great talkers, lovers of compliment, makers of faction; reckless and loyal they are ever without reason, with gallant laughter, honourable without thought, faithful and generous; these peasants are great noblemen.

174 In early history the country of Kakheti was divided into three; between the Yori and the Daghestan mountains was Kakheti, which in the eighteenth century still retained the name particularly as Inner Kakheti; the land between the Yori and the Mtkvari was Kukheti and the lower region, above the confluence of the three rivers was Hereti. According to

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The three villages of the Commune of Ushkuli in Svaneti

(From a photograph published in *Materiali po Arkheologii Kavkaza*, Vol. X)

(*face page 73*)

li: Allen H-4 (no date) 1932 RII Georgia RII

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View from Mount Ugviri in Svaneti—over the Valley of the Mulkhra, with the snowclad peak of Mount Mezili in the background

(From a photograph published in *Materiali po Arkheologii Kavkaza*, Vol. X)

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ETHNOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL DIVISION OF GEORGIA

By A. GUGUSHVILI

131 GEORGIA lies between the two systems of the Caucasian Mountains—that of the Great Caucasus in the north and that of the Little Caucasus in the south. On the west she borders upon the Black Sea, between the River Pso in the north and the village of Sarp in the south (south-west of Batum); on the east she is bounded by the River Alazani and its junction with the Yori. On the east is Azerbaijan and on the south are Armenia and Turkey.

Within these boundaries Georgia occupies an area of 72,661 square [141] *versts*, or 75,792 square kilometres, and she has a population of about 3,000,000.

The territory of Georgia in the present-day political sense does not coincide with the territory which can be called Georgia in the national sense, for a considerable portion of the Georgian territory lies outside her present-day frontiers, such as the Zak'at'ala district in the east, the southern part of the Bortchalo district in the south, and Artvin, Ardahan, Ardanutch, and Olti in the south-west. Apart from these latter four districts which the Bolsheviks ceded to Turkey by the Treaty of Kars (March, 1921), the whole of the middle basin of the Dchorokh, known as *Klarjet'-T'ort'um-Ispiri*, and *Lazistan* along the Black Sea coast, inhabited by the Laz, a Georgian tribe, have now for a considerable time been under Turkey.

101 The country which is inhabited at present by the Georgians, and which has been their homeland for the last twenty-five to thirty centuries, is called in Georgian *Sak'art'velo* (Sa-k'art'-v-el-o). The name *Sak'art'velo* (Georgia) and *K'art'veli* (a Georgian) is derived from the name of *K'art'li* (K'art'-l-i), a principal province of Georgia and its inhabitants, the K'art'ians or K'art'lians, who gave their name to the whole country just as Schwyz gave its name to the whole of Switzerland.

● [133] The Suram range or *Likhis-mt'a* (Mountains of Likhi), which connects the system of the Great Caucasus in the north with the system of the Little Caucasus in the south, divides Georgia into two principal parts—Western and Eastern, or, using the Georgian terminology, into *Imier* "that side" and *Amier* "this side" (of the Suram or Likhi range); Western and Eastern Georgia were therefore called also *Likht'-imieri* and *Likht'-amieri* Georgia, and the two parts of the country *Likht' Imereti* and *Likht' Ameret'i* respectively.

3: Gugushvili E-4,5 (no date) 1935 H1 Georgia

the terms Imeret'i and Mingrelia were identical; to this effect we have also a linguistic basis, but, nevertheless, *imer* is one of the local differentiated ancient forms of a general ethnic term, preserved as a survival by a definite and ethnographically differentiated region. The full, more ancient form of the term *imer* is **himer*, resp. **hiber*." [1]

Eastern Georgia

Eastern or *Likht'-amieri* Georgia comprises the following "countries" or ethnographic divisions.

Kakhet'i (Kakh-et'-i), the country of the Kakh-s, Kakh-ians (Kakhetia and Kakhetians of the Russians), which constitutes the extreme eastern part of Georgia, lies between the Mtkvari(Kur)-Aragvi rivers (on the west) and the eastern part of the main Caucasus chain (the *Deghestan* and *Samur Alps*), stretching in a south-easterly direction from the Pirik'it'eli chain [2] of the Great Caucasus Mountains in the north to the confluence of the Rivers Yori and Alazani.

Kakhet'i is divided into two parts by the Kakhetian range or *Tsiv-Gomboris-mt'a*. This range is a ramification of the Great Caucasus, and stretches south-east, curling like a sickle; outside the curve lies the western or Outer (*Garet'*) Kakhet'i, and inside it the eastern or Inner (*Shignit'*) Kakhet'i. The former occupies the basin of the River Yori (in ancient times called the "Little Alazani") and the latter that of the Alazani.

Inner Kakhet'i comprises:—

T'ushet'i (T'ush-et'-i)—the country of the T'ush-es (Tushetia and Tushins of the Russians), occupying the northern part of Inner Kakhet'i; its northern boundary is the Pirik'it'eli chain between the peaks Tebulos-mt'a (4507 m.) and Diklos-mt'a (4135 m.), north of the main Caucasus chain; a portion of the latter, between Mount Borbalo (3290 m.) and Mount Shavi-klde (3581 m.), stretches almost across the middle of the country. This portion of the Great Caucasus is known as the *Tushetian Alps*.

K'iziqi, under which name is known the district of Sighnagh (Signakh of the Russians), constitutes the southern part of Inner Kakhet'i, between the Yori and Alazani. It was also called Kambetchani or Kambetchoani.

Saingilo (Sa-ingil-o), north-east of K'iziqi, between the Alazani river and the Samur Alps, better known as the district of Zak'at'ala (Zakataly of the Russians).

[1] N. Marr, *Baptism*, etc., p. 168.

[2] So is called by the Georgians the chain running parallel to the main Caucasus chain (the watershed). It stretches north of the latter, at a distance of 10 to 30 klm., from the Elbrus group in the west to the summit Shakh-dagh in the east. It is composed chiefly of granite and gneiss and forms the main tectonic axis of the whole Great Caucasus.

101 131 103 162 Outer Kakhet'i includes :—

[133] *Khevsuret'i* (Khev-sur-et'i)—the country of the Khevsur-s, occupying the northernmost part of Outer Karkhet'i, from the Mountains of Udzilauri in the south to the Pirik'it'eli chain north of the main Caucasus chain. A portion of the latter, from the summit Shino-tau (3928 m.) to Mount Borbalo, stretches in a south-easterly direction across the country. Khevsuret'i occupies the defile of the Khevsur Aragvi which flows southward, joining the P'shav Aragvi near Ortsqali under the Udzilauri Mountains, and the defiles of the K'istani or Labais-tsqali, Khakhobis-tsqali and Andakis-tsqali, which flow northwards, and the confluence of which forms the River Argun, the principal river of the Tchetchens in North Caucasia.

Pshavet'i (Pshav-et'-i)—the country of the P'shav-s, south of Khevsuret'i, occupying the defiles of the P'shav Aragvi, which rises in Mount Borbalo.

Besides T'ush-P'shav-Khevsuret'i, the Aragvi valleys and generally the northern parts of Kakhet'i and K'art'li comprised many ethnic " countries " of the Georgian Mountaineers, each with its own name and boundaries, some of which still exist.

Enumerated from south to north these are [1] :—

In the mountains called at present collectively the K'art'lian range [2] and on the upper course of the River Yori :

Erdso, in the Mountains of Erdso, north of the confluence of the Erdsos-tsqali or Adzet'i, a western tributary of the Yori ;

Dsobeni, north-west of Erdso, in the Mountains of Dsobonamt'a ;

T'ianet'i, north of Erdso, occupying the upper valley of the Yori ;

P'khoet'i, north of T'ianet'i, covering the present day P'shavet'i and Khevsuret'i. Prince Vakhust, a Georgian geographer and historian of the eighteenth century, states that the P'shavo-Khevsurians were called formerly *P'kho(v)elni*, P'khovians.

In the mountains forming the watershed between the rivers K'san and Aragvi :

Tskhavati, north of the confluence of the Alevi, an eastern tributary of the K'san ;

[133] [1] See Javakhishvili, *History*, ii (1914), p. 302.

[2] The range called to-day the K'art'lian or *Kartalinski Khrebet* in Russian (see A. F. Lyayster and G. F. Tchursin, *Geografya Kavkaza*, Tiflis, 1924, p. 23), is one of the southern lateral ranges of the main Caucasus chain, constituting the watershed between the P'shav Aragvi and the Mtkvari(Kur) on the one hand and the Yori on the other, and merges in the south with the Yori plateau. The *Kukhet'is-mt'a* and *Garejismt'a* of the Georgian sources constituted the southern part of this K'art'lian range.

Dchartalet'i, east of Tskhavati, in the Dchartali and T'khnoli Mountains;

Tskhrazmа, north of Tskhavati, in the gorge of the River Tskhrazmula, also an eastern tributary of the K'san.

In the upper gorges of the Aragvi rivers[1]:

Gudamaqari (Gudamakar), occupying the valley of the Black Aragvi which is called also the Gudamaqari Aragvi;

Mt'iulet'i, the country of the Mt'i-ul-s, west of Gudamaqari, occupying the upper gorge of the White Aragvi which is called also the Mt'iulian Aragvi;

Khada, north-west of Mt'iulet'i and north of Gudamaqari;

Khevi, the country of the Mo-khev-e-ni, above Khada, at the beginning of the Terek valley;

Dsanaret'i (Dsan-ar-et'i or Dsanar-et'-i), the country of the Dsanar-s, possibly the neighbourhood, according to Javakhishvili, of *Dsilkanis-kari*—the "Gate of Dsilkani"—and *Gza Dsilkanisay*—the "Road of Dsilkani"—under which name was known *Gza Darielisay* or *Darialanisay*—the Road of Dariel (Darial) or Darialan (Dar-i-Alan).

In ancient times Kakhet'i was divided into three parts, namely:—

Kakhet'i proper, "the country between the Caucasus and the Kakhetian range, from the Aragvi to Tqetba" (Gulguli above the town of T'elavi).

Kukhet'i (Kukh-et'-i),—the country south of Kakhet'i, "from the Aragvi to the head of the Mountains of Kakhet'i, between the Alazani and the Mtkvari," bounded on the south by the Mountains of Gareja or Garesja.[2]

Heret'i (Her-et'-i), the country south and south-east of Kukhet'-Kakhet'i, between the Mtkvari and the Caucasus (the Daghestan the Samur Alps), extending south-eastward to the Egri- or Airi-tchai-Kish rivers, called Gishis-tsqali in the Georgian sources, and the

[1] The River Aragvi rises under the name *T'et'r* (White) *Aragvi* in the main Caucasus chain, on Mount *Qeli* (Keli). At Pasanauri it is joined from the north by a tributary called *Shav* (Black) Aragvi; further south, at Zhinvani, near Ananur, it receives from the north-east a tributary known as P'shav Aragvi, the middle and upper gorges of which are inhabited by the P'shavs. The P'shav Aragvi in its turn receives from the north a tributary called Khevsurian Aragvi. Below Zhinvani the river, which falls into the Mtkvari at Mtskhet'a, is called simply Aragvi. The name Aragvi was given by the Georgians also to the Terek which rises on Mounts Siveraut, Zilga-khokh, and Gimarai-khokh of the main Caucasus chain, and flows northward through the Darial Pass. In distinction from the White Aragvi, it was called *Aragvi Ovset'isay*, i.e. Ossetian Aragvi. Georgians called the latter river also *Lomekhi* or *T'erpi*.

[2] "Kakhet'i is T'ianet'i above the Khevi (valley) of T'urdo as far as Khevsuret'i; Kukhet'i is Samgori above Nino-Dzuindа and higher up, above Samgori to the Mountain of Erdao and to the Aragvi" [see N. Marr, *Histoire de la Géorgie*, 1re *Partie*, *Histoire ancienne*, *jusqu'au* 1469 *de J.C.* (in Georgian), Petrograd, 1923, p. 20, n. 2.]

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livestock (chiefly sheep and goats) is raised for the production of cheese (of the Swiss type), wool, meat, and skins. Fish abound in Lake Sevan, trout predominating.

One single railroad serves the Armenian SSR, entering the republic from Georgia in the north and skirting the western and southern borders via Alaverdi, Leninakan, and Zangibazar toward Dzhul'fa in the Nakhichevan' Autonomous SSR. From Leninakan the main trunk sends a line westward into Turkey and a short spur southeast toward Artik, the volcanic tuff center. From Zangibazar a branch goes north to Yerevan, with an extension beyond the capital to the sites of the new Zanga hydroelectric plant. A good network of highways serves the mountainous sections. The chief export products are copper, synthetic rubber, building stone, cotton, cognac, wool, and leather.

The capital of the Armenian SSR is Yerevan, which was formerly known as Erivan'. It is situated on the left bank of the Zanga River, at an elevation of about 3,000 feet. It is overlooked by mountains in the north and forms the center of the fertile Yerevan basin, which opens onto the Aras valley. A dense network of canals irrigates large areas of orchards and gardens around the city. Once a minor provincial town, important only for its cognac production, Yerevan has developed into an important industrial center, due mainly to the water power generated along the Zanga River. It is now host to important aluminum and synthetic rubber industries, and it produces machinery of various types, rubber tires, chemicals, leather, canned meats, textiles, tobacco products, canned fruits, and so forth.

Leninakan, the second city of Armenia, is a rail junction and industrial center near the Turkish border. It was formerly called Gumry and Aleksandropol'. Mainly cotton textiles, knitwear, beet sugar, meat, flour and other food products are produced there.

Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic

Capital, Tbilisi (Tiflis); area, 29,400, population, 3,555,000

In the western portion of Transcaucasia the Georgian SSR is divided by the Surami range into two distinct sections: Western Georgia, with a humid, temperate climate, and Eastern Georgia, with a drier, continental type of climate. In the north, the Georgian SSR is bounded by the Greater Caucasus and in the south, by the Lesser Caucasus system.

Western Georgia, which includes the Black Sea littoral and the Rion lowland, is characterized by humid subtropical conditions; the warmest

winters and the greatest precipitation of the USSR are to be found here. Temperatures fluctuate between the winter averages of 37° to 44° F and the summer averages of 73° to 75° F. The yearly rainfall averages 50 to 100 inches. The red lateritic soil supports an extremely abundant and varied subtropical vegetation. In sharp contrast to this region is Eastern Georgia, where the temperatures vary from the January averages of 32°–36° F to the July mean of 82° F. The average yearly rainfall amounts only to about 20 inches. The best agricultural areas are the Kura valley, between Gori and Tbilisi, and Kakhetia. In the mountainous areas average temperatures diminish with relation to the elevation. The forest zone extends from 2,100 to 2,600 feet to 6,000 to 8,300 feet. Above this belt are Alpine meadows, and beyond there are snowy peaks partially covered with glaciers.

The most important mineral resources are manganese (at Chiatura, one of the richest deposits in the world), coal (at Tkibuli and Tkvarcheli), petroleum (in the Shiraki steppe and in the Black Sea littoral), barites (near Kutaisi), rare metals, including molybdenum, antimony, tungsten, and mercury, as well as various types of construction materials. Georgia has numerous mineral springs, with the principal sites at Borzhomi, Abastumani, and Tskhaltubo. The humid climate, together with the mountainous relief, and glaciers in the Greater Caucasus supply Georgia with a large amount of hydroelectric energy. The principal water-power sources are the Rion, the Kura and its affluent, and the Khram, as well as the Black Sea littoral streams the Kodor, the Ingur, and the Adzharis-Tskhali.

Georgians constitute about two thirds of the total population of the Georgian SSR. Among the minorities the Armenians are most numerous (12 percent of the total); they are settled mainly in Tbilisi. Russians, Ukrainians, Greeks, Jews, and Kurds follow with respect to numbers. Several isolated mountain tribes live in the valleys of the Greater Caucasus. Most important among them are the Pshaves, settled along the upper Aragva River, the Khevsurs, to the west, and the Svans, along the upper Ingur River. Georgia has the greatest population density among the Transcaucasian republics, the largest concentration being in Western Georgia and Kakhetia. Three minorities, the Adzhars and the Abkhaz on the Black Sea and the Ossetians on the southern slope of the Greater Caucasus, have been organized into autonomous units within the Georgian SSR.

As a result of the liquidation within the Russian SFSR of several